

AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA:

(a) and (b) A proposal is being processed to set up a "Medicinal Plants Board" as an agency which would be responsible to coordinate all matters relating to the development of the Medicinal Plant Sector.

(c) The Government has amended schedule 'T' of Drugs & Cosmetic Rules, 1945 and notified Good Manufacturing Practices for Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani Medicines. Standards for formulation of single and compound drugs of each system are also being made and periodically included in the Pharmacopoeias.

(d) Does not arise.

Food Adulteration

1443. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news report appearing in the Statesman dated 21st June, 2000; under the caption, "Menace of food Adulteration";

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) what concrete and immediate steps are proposed to be taken to address the problem of extensive adulteration of various eatable stuffs like fruits, vegetables, milk, aerated and mineral water, ghee, edible oil, pulses and condiments; and

(d) whether provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act are going to be made more stringent and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA:

(a) Yes, Sir:

(b) As per the information made available by the Food (Health)

Authorities of the States/Union Territories, during the years 1996, 1997 and 1998, the extent of adulteration in various food stuffs was as under:—

Year	Percentage of adulteration
1996	10.5%
1997	9.8%
1998*	9.4%

*the information in respect of the year 1998 is tentative, since information is awaited from six States/UTs.

(c) The Food (Health) Authorities of the States and Union Territories, who are responsible for implementing the provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 within their respective jurisdictions, draw random samples of various articles of food through their enforcement staff to check the quality thereof and take punitive action against the offenders under the law. They are also being requested from time to time to intensify efforts to monitor the quality of food.

(d) A Group has been constituted to review the various provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954, including the penal provisions.

Anaemia among women and Children

1444. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that anaemia is a common complaint among Indian women and children particularly;

(b) if so, what is the ratio of the ratio of anaemic women, urban Vs. rural, and Indian Vs. Developed countries;

(c) whether any specific programme is proposed to be implemented